

CITY OF PEABODY

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR EDWARD A. BETTENCOURT, JR.

November 30, 2018

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai, Chair
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

I am writing to express our community's opposition to the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05- 311.

Peabody Access Telecommunications or Peabody TV is the community media center for the City of Peabody. Its mission is to stimulate cultural, artistic, and personal expression through the use of video and digital media. Peabody TV has been awarded 14 national awards since 2011 from Alliance of Community Media, Alliance of Community Media Northeast Region, NATOA Government Programming award, and the Mass Access Creator Awards.

This local presence enables the residents of our Peabody to watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. From government affairs to education, arts and culture, and high school sports, there is something for everyone on Peabody TV.

And that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC's proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels, – something that was never the intent of the Act.

We appreciate your consideration of our position and hope you will protect PEG channels in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Warmest regards,

Edward A. Bettencourt, Jr.
Mayor, City of Peabody

CC: The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner